Year	GVA in Agriculture & Allied Sector (Rs. in crores at 1993-94 prices)	Growth Rate %
1995-96	251892	-0.9
1996-97	276091	9.6
1997-98	269383	-2.4
1998-99	288401	7.1
1999-2000	290334	0.7

(d) The National Agriculture Policy envisages an annual growth rate in excess of 4% over the next two decades.

Lowering Ex-FCI price of exportable rice

3512. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to lower the ex-FCI price of rice for export purposes;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether Government are exploring various options for it;

(d) if so, whether shipment have not picked up in the recent past, due to non-competitiveness of price;

(e) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(f) to what extent it has boosted the exports of rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Making agriculture export oriented

†3513. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of agricultural contribution in the total exports of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government propose to bring about any policy changes to make agriculture export oriented and to ensure more capital investment in the agriculture sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the procedure to be followed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As per the statistics made available by the Department of Commerce, the percentage of agricultural contribution in the total exports of the country, during the year 2000-2001, was 13.54.

(b) to (d) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export / Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding the exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process, and accordingly, policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. The long-term Export Policy lays stress on the promotion of agricultural exports. The Policy envisages the creation of Agri Export Zones for the end to end development for export of specific products from a geographically contiguous area. These zones are to be identified by the respective State Government who would also evolve a comprehensive package of services such as provision of pre / post harvest treatment and operations, plant protection, processing, storage and related research and development. The agro sector can also avail of the Exim Policy Schemes like Duty Exemption Scheme and Export Capital Goods Scheme. The recent Exim Policy announced by the Government, on the 31st March, 2001, also envisages the entitlement of Agri-exporters for recognition as Export House / Trading House / Star Trading Houses / Super Star Trading House on achieving 1/3rd of the threshold limit prescribed for exports of other goods.

Sale of agricultural commodities to consumers

3514. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum limit for sale of foodgrains, edible oils, oilseeds, vegetables by the traders to consumers would be fixed by Government, as is fixed in respect of production thereof by the farmers; and